

Manufacturers blame chain stores for high prices

BY YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — The chains of retail stores and supermarkets are partially to blame for the high prices of food and textile products, David Mosevics, co-managing director of Elite and chairman of the food division of the Manufacturers Association, told a press conference here yesterday.

Manufacturers accused the country's retail chains of squeezing profits both from the manufacturers and from the customers. They claimed that all over the world chains sell products to customers at reduced prices, and in Israel it is just the opposite.

The manufacturers' main complaint concerned the terms of credit they give to the chains. For food products 60 days credit is given, while for textile products it sometimes reaches 110 days, not index-linked. With textile products, the chains are allowed to return unsold stock to manufacturers at the end of this period.

The speakers admitted that they themselves were partially responsible for the present situation because they had agreed to such credit terms. Now they want to change the terms but the chains are not willing to shorten the credit period.

Shmuel Dror, managing director of the National Brewery, said the supermarkets are putting pressure on his company to stop production of malt beer and Nesher beer because of the low price and low profit from

these items. "The supermarkets prefer to deal with items that are higher priced and bring in higher profits."

Dror also claimed that supermarkets are against changing from disposable to returnable Macabee beer bottles. He said the price of the beer could come down at least 33 per cent if this was done.

A supermarket official told *The Jerusalem Post*, however, that the supermarkets are not opposing this change but customers are. Customers prefer not to "shlep" the bottles back to the supermarket, he said.

The manufacturers said that they do not want to harm the retail chains. If the chains do not agree to shorten the credit period, however, manufacturers will open outlets selling directly to the consumer, cutting prices by up to 40 per cent.

Shay Mayer, managing director of Shalom Stores (Kof Bo Shalom) told *The Post*, however, that most manufacturers already have outlets selling directly to the consumer.

Yehuda Cedar, general secretary of the Co-op supermarket chain, said that if manufacturers tried selling to the public, they would realize that it is not so easy to sell products. He said he does not believe Israelis would go out of their way to buy direct from the manufacturer, when they can walk into any supermarket and buy all the commodities they need in one store.

Shmuel Eyal, managing director of the Hamashbir Lazarchan chain of department stores, yesterday called on those with complaints against his chain to speak directly to

him. He said he does not receive 110 day credit from any manufacturer and does not return any unsold merchandise. Any unsold merchandise is his chain's loss, he said.

All chain directors that *The Post* talked to said prices are always dictated by the manufacturers. Some manufacturers, such as Elite and Osem, hold virtual monopolies and there is thus no alternative to their products and prices. The chain directors said that if the manufacturers agreed to freeze their prices for three months, the chains would sell products at the same price for the three months.

Mosevics said that if the chains agreed to lower their credit period to 30 days, Elite would lower its prices by 10 per cent.

The Post asked the chains whether they would accept this challenge. Benjamin Gaon, managing director of Co-op in the Tel Aviv, Dan and Hasharon region, and Mordechai Kreiner, marketing manager of Supersol, both said they would agree to lower the credit to 30 days if manufacturers lowered prices by 10 per cent.

The chains say they work on low profit margins. Some chains fear they will not break even this year, while even the optimistic ones are hoping to make only 3 per cent profit on their turnover.

The chains say the past two months have been tough for them. Department stores report that the mild winter has caused a slump in the sale of winter clothing. Chain stores are planning to start sale campaigns soon that will continue until after Passover.

MKs to Argentina to seek Israeli participation in trials

By JUDY SIEGEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — The five MKs who are due to go to Argentina on Sunday to investigate the plight of "disappeared" Jews and anti-Semitism there will look into the possibility of enabling Israeli representatives to take part in trials of those responsible for the disappearances.

This was disclosed in a joint session of the Knesset's allys and opposition committees and the security and defence committees yesterday, headed by all five MKs who were

selected to make the two-week trip. Allies committee chairman Uzi Arkin noted that Italy and Spain have officially asked the new Argentine government for the right to take part in the trials on behalf of their nationals who suffered under the former military regime. Baran

said that the prime mission of the Jewish delegation will be to present the "Jewish case," and that the trial will be easier now than it would have been until two months ago, when the new, democratically elected government was intensively

working for "Jewish responsibility" for the dictatorship's excesses. The MKs — Baran, Gedalia

Levi, Menachem Hachoen, Yosef Ziv and Dror Zeigerman (the latter representing the Jewish Agency) — will be received at the airport by Argentine officials, including

the Parliament speaker and the chief trials investigator, and later by the new president, Raoul Alfonsín. They will also meet with representatives of the Jewish community.

Oscar Heimovich, whose sister was abducted by the Argentine authorities several years ago and has not been heard of since, complained to the MKs that the government and the Knesset had damaged the cause of the Jewish desaparecidos by keeping silent as the 1,500 Jews were abducted.

Danny Kest, a former emissary of this World Zionist Organization in Argentina, argued that the timing for the visit was wrong since, at the end of January, many Argentinian officials and local Jews were on their summer vacation. But MK Dov Zaklin, who was in Argentina five weeks ago, said it was important for the group to go now, and to demand representation at the trials.

Hachoen noted that the Foreign Ministry prevented the Knesset delegation from going to Argentina for many months, until after the fall of the dictatorship. The MKs even considered, but eventually rejected, the idea of going to their own expense as individuals.

David Ehrlich, a lawyer who represents the 40 families of desaparecidos living in Israel, charged that the visit was "too late, too little and too confused."

Soldier suspected of making false complaint

TEL AVIV (Itim) — A 20-year-old soldier was released on \$15,000 bail yesterday by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court after he was arrested on suspicion of submitting a false complaint to the police that he had been kidnapped by Arabs.

But the court ordered that he be detained for 24 hours during which he should be handed over to the military police, which has jurisdiction over cases involving soldiers. A police representative told the

court that the soldier, Dror Zail Hian, of Bat Yam, had told police he had been kidnapped by four Arabs who had given him a lift in their vehicle. The Arabs then allegedly drugged him and sexually assaulted him. When he came to the next morning, he found himself lying in an alley in Jerusalem, he claimed.

The police told the court the story had been concocted after Hian was absent without leave at the Dead Sea.

Fund to honour slain PLO moderate

The Israeli Council for Israeli-Palestinian Peace announced yesterday that it was launching a fund to commemorate the late Dr. Issam Sartawi, the leading voice of moderation in the Palestine Liberation Organization, who was gunned down in Portugal last year.

The purpose of the fund is to sponsor research and cultural projects designed to promote Israeli-Palestinian understanding, and to "demystify" the image of the PLO in the eyes of the Israeli public.

Dr. Matt Peled, who announced the formation of the fund at a press conference in Jerusalem yesterday,

noted that Sartawi's death has not dissuaded major PLO figures, including Yasser Arafat himself, from continuing their dialogue with members of the council, and that several meetings have taken place in Europe since his assassination.

The fund will provide an \$100,000 prize this year, to be awarded at a ceremony held as close as possible to April 10, the anniversary of Sartawi's death.

Peled also announced that the council is trying to raise the \$100,000 necessary to erect a memorial to Sartawi, designed by Israeli sculptor Yigal Tumarkin, near Acre, Sartawi's birthplace.

'All Jewish women in Finland join WIZO'

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Every Jewish woman in Finland is a member of WIZO, Carmela Belinki, vice-president of WIZO in Helsinki, stated matter of factly.

"We have a total Jewish population of 1,100; we simply cannot afford to let anyone sit and do nothing."

Belinki, one of 34 delegates from abroad who came to attend the annual meeting of the World WIZO Plenary Executive, said WIZO in Finland is not too openly involved in work for Soviet Jewry, or in anything else which could be construed as anti-Soviet, because of Finland's geographic proximity to the Soviet Union.

Trudy Dreyfus, president of WIZO in Switzerland, said her country is also one of the fortunate ones where the Jewish population is small but active. There are 3,000

WIZO members out of a Jewish population of a little more than 18,000.

Both in Finland and in Switzerland, non-Jewish support is required for WIZO fund-raising.

Cecily Peters, president of Hadassah WIZO of Canada, said that in Canada, about 17,000 women, out of a Jewish population of 325,000, are WIZO members. "Young women born after 1948 take the State of Israel for granted," she said. "They are also more career oriented."

She said members cannot be attracted by telling them how important it is to help Israel, or what wonderful work WIZO is doing here. They want to know what is in it for them. Once they join the organization, Peters said, they become involved in its varied projects.

Armenians mark their Christmas today

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The season's third and last Christmas Eve celebrations are due to take place today as the Armenian community marks the holiday.

The Armenian Patriarch is due to lead a procession this morning in Bethlehem, arriving in front of the Church of the Nativity at 11 a.m. A special service is due to take place in the church at midnight.

Tomorrow also marks the Orthodox Epiphany, the day on which, according to Christian tradition, Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. This will be the third year that the Greek Orthodox community has been allowed to hold their customary ceremony at the Monastery of St. John near Jericho, despite the fact that it is in a security area.

Top MD: Little need for treatment abroad

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — The public is being deceived sometimes when people place advertisements in newspapers calling for money to send children overseas for complicated surgery, Professor Avraham Mares, chairman of the Israeli Society of Pediatric Surgeons and head of Soroka Hospital's surgery unit, said here yesterday.

"There are very few surgical procedures that cannot be carried out in Israel," he said. "It would be preferable if the sums were donated to existing medical centres here, rather than using the money for

sending patients abroad for treatment."

Mares spoke of a Haifa baby boy, born with several defects needing corrective surgery. The boy's father advertised in the press for money to send "baby Rafael Nissim" to the U.S. for treatment. The advertisement was signed by Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and a dozen others.

"I spoke with the chief rabbi and told him the boy could be successfully treated in Israel," Eliahu said he had not known this when the boy's father, the head of a Haifa yeshiva, contacted him for help.

The boy is now in Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

Beersheba stabbing victim identified

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEERSHEBA. — The body of a woman found stabbed to death on Monday night in the town's Dalet neighbourhood has been identified as that of Shoshana Partosh, 23, Partosh, the oldest of 13 children, was mentally handicapped.

Her repeatedly-stabbed body was picked up by a Magen David Adom team after a tip-off from an anonymous caller. The team took

the body to the Soroka Hospital and informed the police.

The victim's father, Ya'acov Partosh, 47, a cinema usher and security man, identified the body. He said that she had gone to visit her aunt Monday evening. When he returned home after work and found her missing, he informed the police.

A special investigation team has been set up, but no details are available about the investigation.

Camp residents win High Court injunction

The High Court of Justice in Jerusalem yesterday granted an interim injunction forbidding the Gaza Military Court from hearing charges of illegal building, filed against 24 residents of the Jabalya refugee camp.

The 24 residents, applying to the High Court, charged that the military court was not qualified to hear the cases, which should be heard by a regular municipal court. The attorney of the families maintained that it was against the Geneva Convention for a military court to hear charges of illegal

building, as it is not a matter of security.

The plaintiffs charge that the military authorities want to dismantle their houses, which they extended out of dire need, as their families grew. The military authorities counter-charge that the illegal building by the residents on government land is preventing the construction of a new neighbourhood which is necessary for the good of the residents. (Itim)

Treasury chief leaves for aid talks in U.S.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Finance Ministry Director-General Emanuel Sharon yesterday left for Washington to join the talks on next year's U.S. aid package to Israel.

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An almond tree blossoms in the Jerusalem Forest on the eve of tomorrow's celebration of Tu Bishvat, the "New Year of the Trees." (Rahamim Israeli)

Drought may reduce Tu Bishvat plantings

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Over 25,000 trees are due to be planted tomorrow in Tu Bishvat ceremonies throughout the country, but 2 million other saplings may go unplanted because of this year's drought.

The plantings, to celebrate the "New Year of the Trees," will be carried out by school children, new immigrants and others at 150 sites prepared by the Jewish National Fund. This year a variety will be added to the forests, by planting indigenous oaks, terebinths, carobs, olives and acacias.

But 20,000 dunams prepared this year for afforestation may remain unplanted if the lack of rain continues.

In Jerusalem, the JNF and the municipality will decorate the Ben Yehuda pedestrian mall with a display of trees found in the country's forests, and will set up a model of a forest picnic area. Saplings will also be offered for sale.

The holiday marks the official beginning of Nature Protection Week, during which the country's environmental agencies offer a full schedule of programmes and free hikes. This year's focus is Israel's streams and rivers, particularly the Yarkon, along which a mass march is to take place on Saturday.

For information about the march and other programmes, call the Nature Protection Society, tel. 03-375063.

Haifa man tries to block son's extradition

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The head of the International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) is due to arrive here this evening for talks concerning the organization's convention, scheduled to take place here in March.

IFALPA President Robert Tweedy and four deputies, are coming following pressure from several of IFALPA's member nations to move the convention away from Israel.

Pilots from Sudan, Kuwait, Lebanon, the Soviet Union and Cuba have all said they could not attend a conference in Israel. The British association has reportedly opposed holding the conference here because of the danger of terrorist attacks.

Yitzhak Gonen, chairman of the Israeli Airline Pilots Association told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that 10 members of the 40-member organization were opposed to holding the convention here. Thirteen others expressed no opinion, he added.

A Haifa citizen and his son who lives in the U.S. have applied to the High Court of Justice, asking it to order the police not to ask for the son's extradition to Israel. They also want the police to explain why they are asking for the extradition in connection with a murder committed in Israel. A panel of three judges is to hear the application.

Dr. Hanan Brin said that his son Yaron, 33, left for the U.S. in December 1981. He has settled in New York and is living with a local girl. The couple have a daughter and intend to marry.

Yaron Brin is sought in connection with a murder carried out in December 1981. Brin said his son told him he had no involvement with any murder and has not been involved with any criminal activity. The son suggested that a former partner, with whom he had fallen

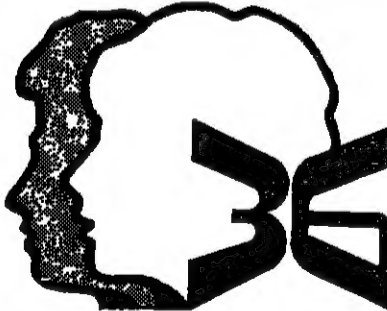
out, might have given false testimony to the police as an act of revenge. When Brin senior applied to the police and the Justice Ministry about the matter, he was told that there was no request for extradition. But the son's American attorney said that the New York police said there had been an extradition request, conveyed through the Israel Embassy in Washington.

In their application to the High Court, the Brins maintain that, if Yaron is brought back to Israel, this will prejudice his chances of returning and taking up his family life there, even if nothing is found against him. Brin maintains the police have given him false information and that they applied for his son's extradition without checking adequately if the request was justified. (Itim)

Kohl to get doctorate from Tel Aviv University

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is to be awarded an honorary doctorate by Tel Aviv University on January 26 in recognition of his support for legislation helping Holocaust survivors.

Kohl, who is due in Israel for an official visit next week, co-sponsored such legislation while he was leader of the opposition. The university also cited his devotion to democratic values and free speech.



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The 36th Anniversary will be celebrated in Israel, the United States, Canada, England and Europe with special events. The first will be the International 36th Anniversary Dinner on June 13, 1984, at the Sheraton Center, New York City, honoring 36 BTJ "Double-Chat" Founders.

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- Joseph and Aranka Berger Residence Hall
- David and Ethel Ginsburg Residence Hall
- Horace W. and Grace Goldsmith Recreation Center
- Merrill Hassenfeld Amphitheater
- Jewish Children's Park
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U.S., Soviet stands unchanged as Stockholm arms talks open

STOCKHOLM (Reuters). — Western ministers urged the Soviet Union at the start of a new European disarmament conference yesterday to return to nuclear missile talks, but a key Soviet ally reiterated conditions the West has been unwilling to meet.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, due to meet today with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, said the U.S. was ready to resume the Geneva talks, which the Soviet Union broke off last year, whenever Moscow wanted.

French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said the 35-nation Stockholm forum — which will discuss measures to boost confidence between Warsaw Pact, NATO and neutral states — was no substitute for resuming negotiations on nuclear arms.

But East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer set out a tough Warsaw Pact stance, which Gromyko is expected to reinforce when he addresses the conference today.

Fischer said the siting of U.S. cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in

Western Europe had removed the basis of the Geneva negotiations and "there must be a return to the situation before deployment began... so that no military countermeasures become necessary on our side."

NATO has stressed that it is determined to continue deployment of 572 U.S. missiles unless Moscow accepts an arms control agreement.

The East German minister listed a catalogue of Soviet bloc proposals for the Stockholm agenda, most of which NATO had dismissed in advance as irrelevant.

They included a non-aggression pact, a treaty banning first use of nuclear arms, a freeze on new nuclear deployments and the creation of nuclear-free zones.

Shultz disclosed that the U.S. would soon present a draft treaty for a worldwide ban on chemical weapons, going beyond last week's Soviet proposal to agree on removing such arms from Europe.

He said the proposal would be made at the 40-nation Geneva committee on disarmament in the coming months.

Although his speech was marked by the new, softer tone set on Monday by President Reagan, Shultz made clear the U.S. was not backing away from its long-held insistence on human rights.

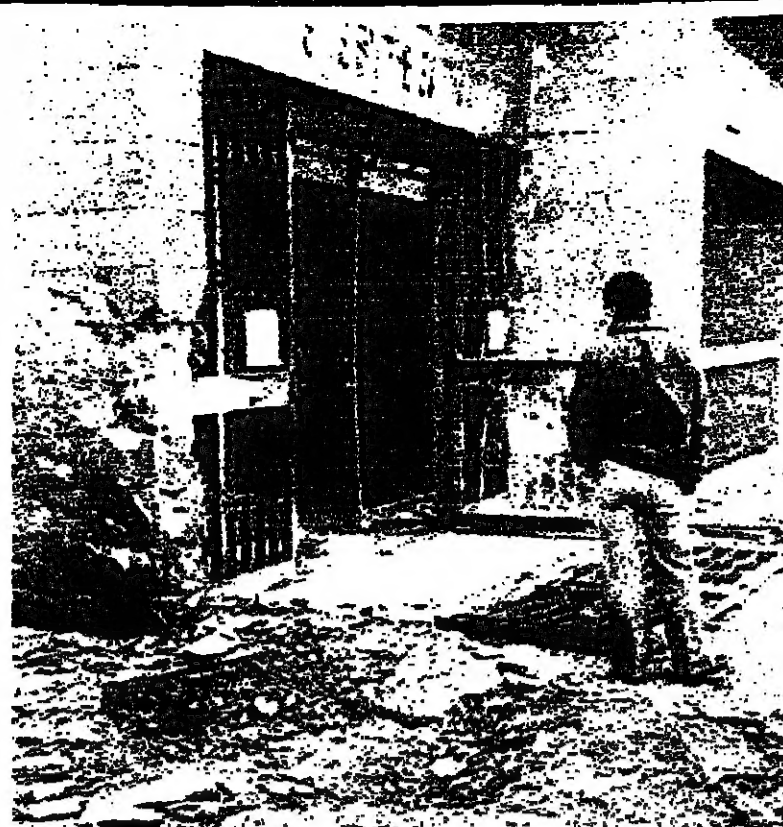
In a passage recalling previously tougher U.S. language, he declared: "The U.S. does not recognize the legitimacy of the artificially imposed division of Europe."

"This division is the essence of Europe's security and human rights problem, and we all know it," Shultz said.

Shultz and Cheysson outlined what NATO thought should be the theme of the conference — practical measures to reduce the risk of surprise attack by conventional forces through exchanges of information on military activities and improved communications.

Fischer indicated the Warsaw Pact was prepared to consider some of these proposals but wanted the wider issues of nuclear security discussed as well.

Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, opening the meeting, urged the superpowers to forge "a grand strategy for peace."



A man inspects the damage to the Bank of Syria and Lebanon in east Beirut after shells fired by pro-Syrian Druse militiamen hit several city areas on Monday.

Soviet rocket could take men to Mars, British TV reports

LONDON (Reuters). — The U.S. space shuttle has photographed a top-secret Soviet rocket capable of carrying men to Mars, British Television reported.

Independent Television News (ITN) said Monday night that the 88-metre tall rocket was the most powerful ever built. It was seen on a launch pad at Tyuratam in Kazakhstan.

ITN said Commander John Young photographed the Soviet rocket during the 59th orbit of the space shuttle's last mission in December.

According to ITN: "When the picture was enhanced by a computer they found they had the first

shot of the most powerful rocket that's ever been built."

The rocket had previously been hidden even from spy satellites by camouflaged netting, the report said, adding that this netting had now been removed.

The report said the rocket, called the G Vehicle, was not quite as tall as the Saturn 5 rocket which took the Americans to the moon. But it was more powerful and could lift a payload of 180 tons into a low earth orbit.

"NASA thinks it would be used to launch a 12-man space station, but it's also powerful enough for a manned mission to Mars," the British report said.

Dutch court jails W. German in arms smuggling to Libya

ROTTERDAM (AP). — A Dutch court yesterday sentenced a West German to a year in prison for illegal storage of Libyan explosives in Rotterdam that ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson was allegedly planning to supply to European terrorist organizations.

Wolfgang Steiniger, 37, was found guilty of unlawfully keeping 40 kilograms of C-4 plastic explosive on the premises of his shipping firm Whetship.

Rotterdam prosecutor Rudolf Gerding told the court in October that Libya was the point of origin for the explosives and that they were meant for distribution to the unnamed terrorist groups.

In later testimony, during January, a witness identified as an officer of the U.S. armed forces, testified for the defence that he had

arranged for Steiniger to store the explosives.

At the time the deal was made, the officer said, he was working for Edwin Wilson, an ex-CIA agent who was later convicted in the U.S. for attempted murder and smuggling firearms and explosives to Libya.

Rotterdam police discovered the explosives in December 1982, acting on a tip from the FBI. The C-4 was hidden in three barrels marked "drilling mud," a substance used to cool oil drilling bits. In dealing out the relatively mild prison term, the court said it had taken into account that Steiniger had been financially "ruined" by getting involved in the explosives smuggling plot. Whetship went bankrupt last year after Steiniger was taken into custody.

Greek cabinet reshuffle stresses health, economy

ATHENS (Reuters). — Nine new ministers and under-secretaries were sworn into Greece's Socialist government yesterday in a reshuffle focusing on key domestic areas such as health and the economy.

In his second major reshuffle since coming to power in 1981, Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu has recalled to the cabinet two former economic ministers and named a Socialist ideologue to the key health portfolio.

Apostolos Lazaris, a business studies professor who was dropped as top economic minister 18 months ago, becomes minister to the prime minister, while Sakis Peponis, also a former economy minister, takes over the new post of broadcasting.

Pasok (Socialist) Party theoretician George Yennimatas becomes health minister at a time when a five-year-plan for a massive boost in

state medical spending has run into problems, with Athens doctors on strike over pay.

Promises to trim private medicine and improve conditions in the state hospitals, where resources are scarce and patients are often crammed into corridors, were a cornerstone of the electoral platform that brought Pasok to power.

The return to the cabinet of Lazaris and Peponis, and the replacement of George Moraitis as commerce minister by newcomer Vassilis Kedecoglou were seen by conservative commentators as an admission of failure in economic policy.

Inflation ran at 20.5 per cent last year, overrunning the government's modest target of getting it below 20 per cent after the 1982 figure of 21.0 per cent.

Spanish gangsters slay three policemen

VALENCIA (Reuters). — Three Spanish civil guard police were killed near here yesterday in a pre-dawn gunfight with a gang of criminals in which one of their assailants also died, the local civil governor said.

The shooting had no connection with political terrorism, he said. The gang of three or four men

opened fire on the police at a road junction after the van in which they were travelling was flagged down by a civil guard car patrol.

Several hours later, one of the attackers, an unemployed metal worker, staggered into his home in Valencia where he died of bullet wounds.

Chinese invents bicycle-sofa-desk-wheelchair

PEKING (Reuters). — A Chinese inventor has developed a bicycle that can be converted into a tricycle, a desk, a sofa, or a wheelchair for the handicapped. The China Daily said yesterday.

The bicycle, designed by an engineer in the northern city of Shenyang, has passed an official technical appraisal, the paper said.

118 stolen crocodiles in couple's fish pond

TAIPEI (Reuters). — A Taiwanese couple has been arrested for stealing 118 crocodiles from a reptile farm in southern Taiwan after the reptiles were found hibernating in their fish pond, police reported yesterday.

Police said they had some trouble removing the crocodiles, worth \$37,000, but were grateful they were in their winter hibernation.

PICKPOCKETS. — A man, 45, and his girlfriend, 32, were arrested yesterday on suspicion of trying to pick the pocket of a woman in the Lod market. The couple recently returned from Germany, where the man was imprisoned for the same offence.

Moscow labels Reagan bid for new talks 'propaganda'

NEW YORK (AP). — The Soviet Union on Monday night dismissed any milder tone in President Ronald Reagan's speech on U.S.-Soviet relations as election-year propaganda and said Reagan offered no "new ideas or constructive proposals" and aimed "only to mislead public opinion."

In a similar vein, Reagan's foreign policy critics in Washington said they saw no sign of policy changes which would thaw the current diplomatic freeze between the superpowers.

The official Soviet news agency TASS made it clear the Soviets were not interested in conciliatory talk unless accompanied by U.S. concessions on nuclear arms cuts.

"Judging by its content, the speech was first of all of a propaganda nature," TASS said. "Behind the loquacious rhetoric about adherence to limiting the arms race and love of peace was, in effect, the known position of the U.S. administration."

A brief TASS news agency report was buried in the foreign news

pages of the national daily newspapers and the Soviet media made no further comment on his remarks.

They maintained a barrage of attacks on U.S. foreign policy. Western diplomats said Moscow appeared to be in an uncompromising mood and determined to ignore Reagan's overtures.

The authoritative Communist Party daily Pravda yesterday rebuffed Washington's attempt to take a more conciliatory tone with Moscow as deliberate "sordid trickery" to mislead world opinion.

Analyst Vitaly Korionov said that a genuine revision or softening of Reagan's policies would be welcome, but dismissed the current moves as a mere ploy.

"...Prominent American politicians and many mass media agree that what these claims really are is a deliberate attempt to mislead world public opinion," the analyst said.

In Washington, Claiborne Pell, the senior Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Reagan's speech improved the tone of relations with the Soviet Union.

Congress men fight police in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (AP). — Members of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress Party fought pitched battles with police for the third consecutive day on Monday in the Himalayan state of Kashmir which is governed by a regional party, authorities reported.

A general strike sponsored by the Congress Party in the Hindu-majority Jammu region shut down stores, markets, businesses, movie houses and schools, reports from the area said.

The shutdown was called to protest against police shootings last Saturday. Congress leaders and press reports said nine party workers were slain. The Kashmir government ruled by Chief Minister Faruq Abdullah admitted only four deaths.

The Congress Party has been agitating for the dismissal of Abdullah's government, claiming that Abdullah rigged the June 1983 state election and has since terrorized opposition workers through arbitrary arrests.

Mufti Mohammed Sayed, the Congress Party chief in Kashmir, said Monday his party would continue its statewide protests against Abdullah's "gun-crazy illegitimate government." He described Abdullah, a British-educated physician, as a "neo-fascist."

Abdullah, 47, meanwhile, charged that the clashes between state police and Gandhi's supporters resulted from attempts to oust him through violence. He accused her of inciting her party workers against him.

State officials said nearly 200 Congress Party members were detained Monday on charges of rioting and arson and for defying bans on public assembly. The party, however, claimed 500 workers were arrested, many while travelling in buses.

Queen and family get 3.78% pay rise

LONDON (AP). — Queen Elizabeth II and her family got a 3.78 per cent raise in their multi-million pound allowances, officials said yesterday, adding that it was just enough to avoid a "significant reduction in the scale or style of royal occasions."

The 57-year-old monarch's annual state-funded pay — always described as an allowance — went up to £3.85 million, from £3.71m. last year.

The allowances to the royal family are paid annually from what is known as the Civil List, funded by taxpayers.

In the latest Civil List, the queen, her husband, mother, sister, aunt and three younger children were awarded £469m. for the fiscal year starting in April, up from £452m. last year.

U.S. Army chief in Turkey

ANKARA (AP). — U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. John Wickham arrived in this NATO-member country yesterday for a three-day official visit.

Wickham will travel to the central Anatolian city of Kayseri today to visit the Turkish army's tank modernization installations, official sources said.

Contractors Licences for 1984

Licences for 1984 have been sent to all contractors, recorded in the Contractors Register, at their addresses as in the Register.

A contractor who appears in the Register, who has not yet received his licence, should write to the Registrar's office, giving his name, number in the Register, and address (with initials).

His address is: Registrar of Contractors, P.O. Box 18110, Jerusalem 94180.

A licence is valid, only after it has been stamped by the Post Office Bank, showing that the fee has been paid.

A contractor who performs engineering work without a valid licence commits a criminal offence, and is liable to the penalties stated in the law — even if he is registered in the Register.

A contractor who does not pay the licence fee on time may be liable to a demand for payment of double the licence fee.

Arpa Bar-On, Registrar of Contractors

Sports

Shot in the arm

By DON COULD

Post Basketball Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Maccabi Tel Aviv have two reasons to celebrate their 70-65 victory over Hapoel Ramat Gan on Monday night before 1,000 cheering fans at the Yad Eliahu stadium.

Firstly, they reversed an early season loss to Ramat Gan, and secondly, by continuing their winning ways, they proved that they are ready to go all out for success in their crucial European Cup match in Italy on Thursday night against Banco Roma.

Proof of how important this game is to Israelis is that it is being televised live from Italy.

The champions came out blazing behind the brilliant shooting of Mickey Berkowitz, and, with 40 minutes still to go before the interval, had built up a lead of 40-20. At that stage Berkowitz had scored as many points as the entire opposition.

Then Hapoel started to claw their way back into the game. At half, they had reduced the lead to 44-30, with Steve Kaplan putting the clamp on Berkowitz. Art Hanesy, Sam Schlachter and Steve Nislovic began to shake things up. Although Ramat Gan was without their ace player, Mickey Berkowitz, who scored 20 points, they led 44-30 at the end of the first half.

With 2:55 minutes left, and the score 44-30, Hapoel started to claw their way back into the game. At half, they had reduced the lead to 44-30, with Steve Kaplan putting the clamp on Berkowitz. Art Hanesy, Sam Schlachter and Steve Nislovic began to shake things up. Although Ramat Gan was without their ace player, Mickey Berkowitz, who scored 20 points, they led 44-30 at the end of the first half.

Hapoel Tel Aviv could do nothing right and left nothing wrong — that sums up Maccabi's home court 90-70 victory. The winners were led by Doron Shefi with 24 points. Bill Miller scored 20 and grabbed 10 rebounds. Hapoel Tel Aviv were troubled by the second half. Larone Mercer got 20 points for the losers.

Maccabi Ramat Gan put up a good fight against Hapoel Ramat Gan before losing 87-70 in a game that was closer than the score indicates.

Worse than the defeat for Doron was the blow when Jackie Robinson, one of the finest players in the country, went down after a collision with Hapoel's Motti Danon. He was carried off with a broken leg. Nevertheless, he led all scorers with 21 points. Corey Nelson pulled down 16 rebounds, Motti Danon, (off Y'a'acoby and Yehi) Bagli each got 18 for Hapoel.

Kiyas Muzkin, playing without Dan Smith, gave Hapoel Ramat Gan a great fight, but came out on the short end, 82-80. Hapoel Ramat Gan led the winners with 28 points, but Hapoel Ramat Gan gave Hapoel Ramat Gan the honours for the game and the entire league. Hapoel Ramat Gan led the winners with 28 points, but Hapoel Ramat Gan gave Hapoel Ramat Gan the honours for the game and the entire league.

The decision came in a suit filed by Universal City Studios Inc. and Walt Disney Productions against Sony Corporation of America and other video equipment manufacturers.

The champions

LONDON (AP). — John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova were named yesterday as the world tennis champions of 1983 by the International Tennis Federation. The champions were chosen by a committee of three former Wimbledon champions, but McEnroe was not a unanimous choice. Fred Perry and Donald Budge voted for him, but Lew Hoad, the third member of the panel, favoured Mats Wilander.

Windie triumphs

SYDNEY (AP). — The West Indies were off ahead in the Benson and Hedges One Day International Cricket Tournament by defeating Australia yesterday by 25 runs. opener Doug Hayman made 104 not out and Clive Lloyd 48 in the Windies score of 223 for seven. Australia made 195 for 9.

In Johannesburg, the West Indian rebels won their Test against South Africa by one wicket in a cliffhanger, Alvin Kalichman, who captained the side, as Lawrence Rowe led the side. "It was tremendous cricket. The game fluctuated from one side to another all along the line. I've played in 66 official Tests in my career, but this was the most nerve-racking game I've ever been in," South African Clive Rice added. "They don't come much closer than this one. This game has been like one-day cricket all through the four days."

S.A. 160 and 236. Windie rebels 193 and 204 for

State Cup soccer

TEL AVIV. — Two National League Cup sides went through to the next round of the State Cup by eliminating teams from lower leagues in replays yesterday. Maccabi Jaffa 3 (David Amir 2, Yehi Bagli 1) beat Hapoel Ramat Gan 2nd Division 1 (Yehi Bagli 1).

Hapoel Lod 4 (Benny Samra 2, Yehi Bagli 1, Yehi Bagli 1, Yehi Bagli 1) beat Hapoel Ramat Gan 2nd Division 1 (Yehi Bagli 1).

Shlomo weds

HERZLIYA. — Shlomo Glickstein, 26, the man who put Israel on the international tennis map, was feted by hundreds of players and officials at his wedding last night to Lina Levy, of Jerusalem, also 26, in the Accadia-Dan Hotel.

Spain Communists accuse Moscow of interference

MADRID (Reuters). — The Spanish Communist Party (PCE) yesterday accused the Soviet Communist Party of unacceptable interference in its internal affairs over the formation of a rival pro-Soviet Communist group in Spain.

The breakaway group, which calls itself the Communist Party (PC), was formally established on January 15 at the end of a three-day congress that was attended by party officials from the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact states.

The PC rejects the doctrine of Eurocommunist independence from Moscow and claims to follow orthodox Marxist-Leninism.

The PCE secretariat said in a statement that it profoundly deplored the presence of the Soviet delegation at the PC congress and a speech of support by one of its members.

"The PCE rejects such conduct of the Soviet party, which does not fit with Communist tradition and is improper for a party with whom we maintain relations," the PCE said.

The PCE also said it would challenge the name of the new party in the courts on the grounds that it would be confused with its own name.

U.S. court rules video recording at home is legal

WASHINGTON (Reuters). — The U.S. Supreme Court ruled yesterday that home video taping of Hollywood films and other copyrighted television programmes is legal.

The 5-4 decision, in one of the most controversial cases to come before the court in recent years, was a victory for the \$3 billion a year home video industry, one of the fastest-growing electronic businesses in the U.S.

In its opinion, the Supreme Court said that home video recordings were being used by the general public primarily for home entertainment and not for commercial use. Therefore, this did not constitute a violation of U.S. copyright laws.

The decision came in a suit filed by Universal City Studios Inc. and Walt Disney Productions against Sony Corporation of America and other video equipment manufacturers.

Paul McCartney's wife held on drugs charge

LONDON (AP). — Paul McCartney's American wife, Linda, was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport yesterday and charged with possessing marijuana two days after the couple were convicted of possessing the drug in Barbados, Scotland Yard said.

She was arrested after the couple landed with their three children, police said. At the airport, McCartney, 41, told reporters he thought marijuana should be legalized.

Both McCartney and his wife were fined \$100 at Hove Magistrates Court in Barbados on Monday for possessing marijuana at their vacation home on the Caribbean island.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said Linda was scheduled to appear before Hove Magistrates Court in west London on the new charge on January 24.

New chewing gum

WASHINGTON (AP). — A chewing gum laced with nicotine will soon be sold with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval as a prescription aid to smokers who want to quit the cigarette habit, an agency official said yesterday.

Dr. Edward Tocus, chief of the FDA's drug abuse staff, confirmed that the agency had approved an application by Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals Inc. of Cincinnati to sell the gum that will be marketed as "nicorette."

Tricus, however, cautioned that the gum "isn't a panacea for stopping smoking... We've got data that show it can work for some people."

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...you do first with about 100 people to promote the study of Arabic literature in Israel? That's the problem faced by Prof. Sasson Somekh, the genial, energetic and extended director of Tel Aviv University's School of Language and Literature, and chairman of the Department of Arabic Language and Literature.

Somekh recently been awarded the Herta and Paul Amirson chair for Arabic literature, and like most academic chairs it will not offer any rest. The salary above is the approximate income from the \$250,000 endowment — a private chair at his disposal for the rest of his career.

Somekh, now 50, was born in London and came to Israel at the age of 10. Only then did he begin to learn Hebrew, today, in addition to his research and teaching, he is one of the leading translators of modern Arabic literature into Hebrew. He studied at Oxford, and his English is excellent, though he says he is still influenced by the indefinite article.

He plans to use the endowment funds to promote literary scholarship through an annual international conference at the university to attract the attention of high school students potentially interested in Arabic literature; and to support an intensified translation program to make Arabic works available in Hebrew.

The first international conference was held in the fall — a two-day meeting on Arabic poetics in the garden of the world's leading scholars. Next year's conference will be more ambitious, he says. It will treat Arabic literature in Western Spain, in connection with the centenary of the period — the names you see in the streets of Seville: Raimon, Yehuda Halevi.

Arabic and Hebrew literature are taught separately, so it will be interesting to compare their development. For instance, whether the prosody of Hebrew literature of the period derives from

Spanish or Moslem sources. "It sounds esoteric, but you can discover much about the development of culture that way," he says.

He stresses the need for basic research in literature, which is always obvious to scholars but not necessarily to those in charge of skimming and saving on university budgets.

Those who insist that there ought to be some useful application for conclusions about metrical structure will perhaps be reassured by a congratulatory letter Somekh received from his friend, Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz.

"It reads, in part: 'Literature, of course, was and remains the best channel for establishing spiritual ties between peoples, and your appointment for the new Chair confirms what I had known of your deep knowledge and your devotion to our literature, as well as the singular ability you possess of presenting and analyzing it.'

One of the problems for scholars is tracking down the material to be presented and analyzed. Arabic literature is 'probably the richest literature in pre-modern times,' Somekh says. But only about 20 percent of existing manuscripts have been published. 'Literature' for the period is not the narrow definition we have today, but includes 'theology, Koranic interpretations, anecdotes, texts on grammar, and philosophy in its wider sense, including math and sciences.'

The manuscripts are scattered all over the world, with significant collections in Istanbul, Cairo, Leningrad, Leyden and the U.S. The problem of scholars working separately in all these places is of course intensified by the political situation. 'For instance, Damascus is an important centre of study, but even Western scholars in Syria or Saudi Arabia won't come to Israel.' If there is any surreptitious cooperation, no one will admit to hearing tip-toeing in the library stacks.

In any case, another idea for a conference is one on manuscripts — to gather a dozen scholars, or even fewer, and try to coordinate efforts

THE TRAGEDY OF ARABIC



'Successive governments say they're interested in encouraging the study of Arabic, but they never take it seriously,' says Prof. Sasson Somekh. The Post's MARSHA POMERANTZ reports.

to locate, publish and interpret manuscripts. A similar problem of dispersion exists for medieval Hebrew manuscripts, Somekh says. They're at Cambridge, Oxford, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Leningrad, Leyden, and some are still in Cairo.

THE SECOND major area Somekh wants to tackle with his new-found funds is the recruitment of good students. On the basis of 20 years' experience in education, he calls the treatment of Arabic in high schools "a scandal."

"Successive governments say we're interested in encouraging the study of Arabic, but they never take it seriously," he says. "They say that more students are taking Arabic now, but the percentage of those majoring in it is going down. That's the tragedy."

The heyday for Arabic in the high schools was in the '50s, when there was a good curriculum and dedicated teachers. Some of the leaders in the field today — he mentions Shimon Shamir, who heads the Israeli Academic Mission in Cairo, and Haim Shaked — emerged from

those classes.

A high-school background is vital, since university programmes don't start from scratch, Somekh explains. Some entering students take an intensive six-month course, but in most cases, knowledge of the language is a prerequisite for studies.

This year, for the first time, there was a greater interest in Arabic among good students, while the level of students seemed to be dropping in other departments. But Somekh sees the increased interest as a "delayed reaction to Sadat's

visit" rather than a credit to high-school preparation.

Tel Aviv University takes about 50 new students each year; the Hebrew University takes a similar number. About two-thirds are Jews and one-third Arabs, says Somekh, but in the smaller department at Haifa University, there's a larger proportion of Arabs.

One way to stimulate interest in the subject in Jewish high schools is to have university staff visit for talks. "But the faculty here are so busy publishing, etc., that they have no time for this missionary activity."

Possible solution: use the Halmos money to invite teachers and students to the university for long study days once or twice a year. "We may even bring them to proper university lectures," says Somekh. "They might get infected."

IN ORDER to interest students, teachers have to have better translations to offer and books about the subject, Somekh says. "For instance, there's no good survey of Arabic literature in Hebrew."

Which brings us to the third project for the endowment: more and better translations. About 10 books have recently been translated, he says — mostly works by his friend Mahfouz; one is a novel of Beirut in 1975 by a Lebanese.

What about Palestinian works? He mentions one outstanding work by Emil Habibi, a member of the Knesset for 15 years. He's "not prolific, but probably the best Palestinian novelist today," says Somekh. His book, whose title is a neologism roughly equivalent to *The Optimist*, has been translated into Hebrew by Anton Shammas, a poet who writes in both Arabic and Hebrew.

A few segments of the work are presented in the October-November issue of *Moznaim*, the magazine of the Hebrew Writers' Association, which has devoted the double issue to Arabic literature in translation.

The book is picaresque, describing with tongue-in-cheek delicacy a

series of misadventures. In the *Moznaim* selections, the hero, who has lived in Haifa all his life, is returned there in an army truck from Acre after the 1948 war, and "welcomed" to the Jewish state. He goes to see who's hanging laundry now on the balcony of the family villa. He screws up his courage to ask the time in Hebrew of a Jewish labourer, and is answered "uchi."

The book has been translated into English by Trevor Le Gassick, a British scholar, and Salma Jayyusi, a Palestinian poet. It was issued in New York last year by Vantage under the title: *The Secret Life of Saeed, the Ill-Fated Pessimist* and subtitled "A Palestinian who became a citizen of Israel."

Other Palestinian works are available in English in a series published by *Three Continents* in the U.S., which collaborates with Heinemann in England. Among them are books by Ghassan Kanafani, who was the spokesman for George Habash until his death about 10 years ago, and Mahmoud Darwish, "an ex-Israeli who works for the PLO in Beirut."

The choice of the books in the series is "not always the best, as far as I'm concerned," says Somekh. "There's a tinge of propaganda, of tendentiousness, in it." Besides, he adds, "the translations are less than perfect."

Arabs depicted in Hebrew literature tend to be allegorical, and the same is true of Jews depicted in Arabic literature. "The most important authors never wrote of Jews," he says. "They knew they didn't know."

But there's "a plethora of trivial literature" in Arabic which presents Jewish stereotypes that Somekh still finds shocking in their distortion. They tend to be "the cruel Ashkenazi officer" and "a woman named Rachelle" who is often both soldier and prostitute.

Increased study of the literature may or may not lead to palpable change in the relationship between peoples. In any case, the projects he is supported by the Halmos chair are primarily of intellectual interest. Proudly first, Optimism after.

Planter of trees

By YA'ACOV FRIEDLER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Palestine, he reportedly got together with the revered chief rabbi, Avraham Yitzhak Hacohen Kook, and agreed with him that Tu B'Shvat would be an ideal occasion for planting saplings. The chief rabbi lent national-religious prestige to the plantings, which had already been introduced (on a small scale) as the thing to do on Tu B'Shvat by the Teachers' Union in 1905.

IN HIS autobiography *My Life — My Trees*, published in London in 1970, Baker recalled that when he arrived in Jerusalem, he called on the mufti, the Latin patriarch, the Greek Orthodox patriarch, the bishop of Jerusalem and the chancellor of the Hebrew University, and invited them to a meeting with the high commissioner to consider the re-planting of the land.

He did not tell any of them that he had invited the others; when they all turned up, it was "the first time that the heads of all these religions had been brought together."

He told them that there was no land "needing trees more than

Palestine and no land would respond so well to planting." The land had suffered for centuries from invading armies, olive trees had been taxed and cut down for fuel to avoid the taxation. "I reminded them that in historic times the country had been well wooded and for its future prosperity tree-cover must be restored to the hills," he wrote. He enlisted them all in founding a Men of the Trees society in Palestine, which the heads of the government departments also joined.

"I promised to donate £1,000 to help start tree nurseries and the high commissioner promised a further £1,000. Very soon 42 nurseries were established."

BAKER then describes a Tu B'Shvat tree-planting ceremony in the Bayit Vegan suburb of Jerusalem, which he attended with the 'local' rabbi; 4,000 Jewish schoolchildren from Jerusalem took part, marching to the site in a "four mile long procession."

After the saplings were planted the children each received a bag of fruit and nuts with a bottle of fresh orange juice.

"This revival of the Feast of Trees took place on the 15th of Shvat, 1929. During the long years of Dispersion, Jews had kept this memorable feast established in Levitical times by eating 15 different kinds of fruit grown in the Holy Land. Now with the return to the Land they were once more planting in memory of the ancient saying 'He who plants in the land shall possess the land.'"

He recalled that back in London, and as a result of a lecture tour to America, he raised more funds to establish tree nurseries in Palestine and to "plant the new forest between Jerusalem and Jaffa."

Years later he was introduced to a young English officer who had commanded a company in Palestine "which for three days had endeavoured to catch up with Arab marauders. At the end of that time they emerged, tired and hungry, their emergency rations finished, and the Arabs still hiding in the forest. The officers reported their failure to their colonel, who reported to the general, who called on the governor general, Wauchope, to suggest the forest be cut down so that the army could complete their job."

"What, general," said the governor. "You must not dare touch a tree, those were planted by the Men of the Trees, it's as much as my job's worth."

Baker later met General Wauchope in London. "I asked him if there was any truth in the story and he replied: 'That's true, or near enough. You'd have had me sacked, Baker, wouldn't you?'"

Baker also took the opportunity on his visit to Palestine to call on Shoghi Rabbaneh Effendi, the late guardian of the Baha'i faith. "He greeted me and handed me an envelope with his application for life membership of the Men of the Trees. He promised that I would succeed in bringing all the Heads of Religion in Palestine together in the cause of the trees."

This he indeed succeeded in doing.

Baker died in Saskatoon, the home of his first university, where he went to attend the opening of a building in his honour.

The trees he was instrumental in planting in this country and the Tu B'Shvat tree-planting ceremonies live on to keep his memory green in Israel.

Stopping construction

LAW REPORT / Asher Felix Landau

the attention of property owners affected. Objections to the scheme may be lodged within two months after the publication in the official gazette.

IN TERMS of Order 161 of the military commander, every provision in a law requiring publication in the official gazette shall be interpreted as meaning publication in a manner regarded by him as sufficient to bring the matter to the notice of persons affected. Pursuant to this order, the general commanding the Central District decided on four methods of publication, the relevant one of which provides that in the case of a publication affecting a town or village, the notice shall be exhibited in the municipal offices or the home of the mukhtar, as the case may be.

The result was that the notice relating to scheme 1/81, for the purpose of lodging objections, should have been published in two local newspapers, and exhibited in the offices of the local council of Ariel.

THE NOTICE relating to scheme 1/81 had not been published as required, the president continued. It had appeared in one local newspaper only. Even were it possible to regard that omission as a mere technical error, there was the far more important fact that the notice — and what was the most serious aspect of all, the right to lodge objections — had not been exhibited in the offices of the local council, nor brought in any way to the attention of the local inhabitants.

Moreover, the various meetings that had taken place between the planning authorities and the local

council and inhabitants could have created the impression that no final scheme existed for Solel Boneh Bet, and that they would still have the opportunity of objecting to any such scheme. It was true that the local council had been represented at the meeting of the planning commission which approved the scheme, but that was no substitute for proper publication of the notice and the right to object.

The failure to exhibit the notice and the right to lodge objections at the local office and inform the inhabitants, was no technical fault, Justice Kahan said, and was sufficient to justify the order sought. There was even a further defect, for the notice bringing scheme 1/81 into force had not been published until after the petition had been lodged. The result was that the building permit for Solel Boneh Bet had been issued under a scheme which in law did not exist.

Justice Kahan said he had considered whether the petitioners were not stopped from applying to court since they had built their own houses by virtue of a permit under the very scheme which they now argued was invalid. Since, however, they were entitled to assume when they received their permits that the authorities had acted according to law, and had only become aware of the legal defects after the fact, when they investigated the validity of the permit issued to the fourth respondent, they were not precluded from approaching the court.

FOR THE ABOVE reasons, the petition was allowed and the permit issued to the respondent set aside. The military and planning authorities and the fourth respondent, were each ordered to pay the costs of the petitioners in the sum of IS25,000.

Advocates Mordechai and Ravital Galuska appeared for the petitioners; Advocate Eli Ben-Tovim, senior assistant state attorney, for the military and planning authorities and Advocate Boaz Weismann for the fourth respondent.

Judgment was given on October 2, 1983.

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Honouring a challenge

MUSIC

Tel Aviv Conservatory Orchestra, Steven Sloane conducting, with Michal Shamir, soprano (YMCA Auditorium, Jerusalem, January 12). Mozart: Symphony No. 4, K. 19; Rodrigo: Cuatro Valses Anticuarios; Viazov: Scene for Soprano "Bella Mia Flamma." K. 528; Ives: The Unanswered Question; Stravinsky: Pulcinella, Suite (after Pergolesi).

THE VAST majority of music students studying instruments who do not go on to professional studies regrettably drop out sooner or later from active music-making, with only very few banding together for chamber music ensembles and the like. It is all the more welcome therefore that there is now a youth orchestra in Tel Aviv, which for the last two years has been working under the professional direction of new immigrant Steven Sloane. It made its debut in Jerusalem last week. The interesting programme was the brainchild of the enterprising and adventurous conductors and the performance proved his conscientious preparation and careful nursing of the young talents.

Aided by their five coaches, members of the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the young players stood up to the challenge with honour, and it was a real pleasure to listen to the lively and contrasting performances.

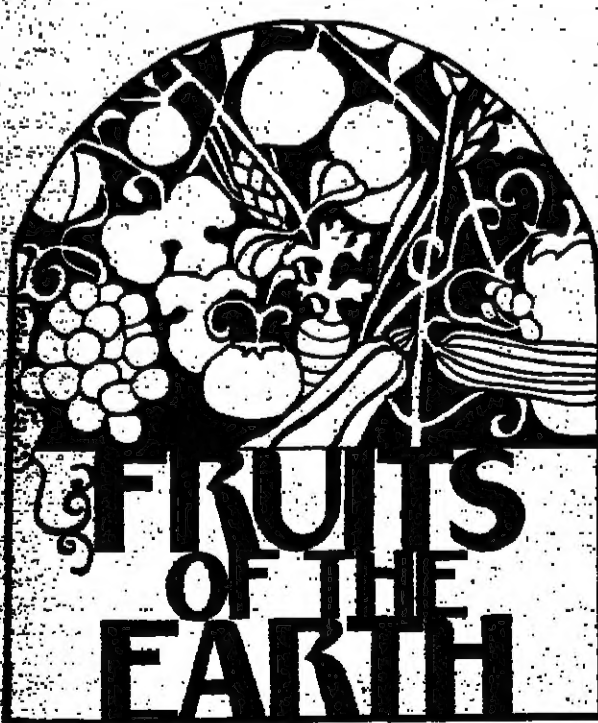
Guest singer Michal Shamir made a most promising debut, with a clear pleasant soprano voice, though still lacking sufficient volume and more flexibility in nuances to be fully appreciated. Her enunciation needs to be improved upon as the Spanish words in the Rodrigo Madrigals were nearly unintelligible, which the Italian in the Mozart Aria was only slightly better.

On the whole, the Tel Aviv Conservatory and its conductor, Steven Sloane, are to be congratulated for this orchestral ensemble, which deserves encouragement from all the powers-that-be.

YOHANAN BOEHM

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U.S. disappoints World Bank

Secret: The Toy 4, 7.15, 9.15

Turnovers sink, but spirits rise

TEL AVIV — The ban on Israeli trading in shares on foreign stock exchanges (except those of Israeli companies) had no effect on trading yesterday on the Tel Aviv stock exchange. Financial circles "hoped" however, that this would change in the future and more funds would be channeled into the local market.

The turnover continued to fall, to \$242 million (about \$2m.) approximately \$500,000 less than on the day before. Trading in bonds was resumed after it had been stopped on the previous day to allow management to rearrange bonds in groups in line with their yields. Turnover was \$587.3m. (\$5.94m.).

On the whole, a more favorable picture prevailed. Prices went up, with the General Share Index by 0.67 per cent. However, if commercial banks, which constituted 61 per cent of all trading, were excluded, the index rose by only 0.27 per cent.

The various categories rose as follows: commercial banks, plus 0.84 per cent; mortgage banks, plus 0.06 per cent; financial institutions, plus 0.25 per cent; and insurance companies, minus 0.16 per cent.

Trade and utilities were down 0.68 per cent; land development, minus 0.43 per cent; industrials, plus 0.72 per cent; investment companies, plus 0.13 per cent; and oil companies, minus 0.18 per cent.

The average index rises or falls do not reflect the fact that in many of these categories, there were shifts in

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By MACABEE DEAN

either direction of ten per cent. The changes were considerably more, now and then, for options.

Of the light "wild swimmers" — shares which rose or fell by about ten per cent or more, three rose and five fell. Those which rose were Maritime, and Pri-Zed No. 1, both up by ten per cent, and Delek by 10.2 per cent. Those which fell were: Contractors, by nine per cent; Electric Corp., T.A.T. and Azraim, all by ten per cent, and Zion Insurance, by 10.1 per cent.

A total of 53 shares (including seven "buyers only") rose by five per cent or more, while 47 (including 11 "sellers only") fell by the same margin.

Among the "arrangement" shares, Leumi continued to rise, gaining 41 points (2.9 per cent). The previous day it rose by 20 points. IDB, Discount and Hapoalim remained firm despite large sell orders.

The renewed demand for industrials (it will be remembered that this category rose more than any other on Monday) included Ata C, the company which only a few short weeks ago had to be bailed out by the government. Sdom Metals rose.

but Elbit fell by 1.2 per cent, while Elron gained 0.1 per cent.

Avit (which recently announced it had bought a firm in the U.S.) rose by 40 points, or five per cent. Teva also gained 120 points (6.9 per cent). Teva, which lately faced a bad run of selling, now seems to be recovering.

As for investment companies, despite the fact that this category rose only slightly, there were some exceptions. These included Elern, up 16 points (four per cent) and Discount Investments, up 50 points (5.4 per cent). Oz Investments rose by 28 points (9.6 per cent).

Bayside Land Corporation announced it was increasing its registered capital (at present \$150m.) by \$275m.

Spectronics is examining the possibility of raising capital in the U.S.

Solel Boneh has obtained a 50 per cent share in Clal Oil and Gas for \$330,000. At present Clal Oil and Gas is searching for oil in the Gedera and Kerem Shalom areas, and it has a ten per cent right in the drilling at Kochav 26, eight per cent at Gurim 4, and three per cent in Karmon 3.

Hadarim Properties is increasing its registered capital from \$250m. to a total of \$600m.

Elihu Properties announced that early this month it bought 722,860 Phoenix Insurance 0.1 shares at 1.325 points. After this acquisition, Elihu now has 12,278,860 0.1 shares in Phoenix.

Elbit Electronics states that in the April-December 1983 period its sales were more than \$80m., and its profits \$8m. The company has orders for \$200m. on hand, about half of them from abroad.

Property Building is increasing its registered capital from \$1350m. to \$1800m.

Tadris Ready Mixed Concrete announces that its 140 bonus share allocation of February 1983 will be the final dividend for 1982/83.

Most active stocks

Hapoalim	2,180	1541.2m.	n.c.
Leumi	1,452	1533.9m.	+41
IDB	3,349	1524.4m.	n.c.
Shares traded:			
Converline	15,282.7m.		
Bondco	15,687.3m.		

Dollar Representative Rates

NEW YORK (AP) — Money rates for Monday at 3:45 p.m., as reported by Telex-Systems Inc.	
Prime Rate: 11	
Discount Rate: 8	
Dealers commercial paper: 30-180 days: 9.10-9.05	
Certificates of deposit \$100,000 30-59 days: 9.00	
60-89 days: 9.05	
Treasury BI rates:	
3-month as of Jan 16: 8.82	
6-month as of Jan 16: 8.92	

Bank of Israel exchange rates

January 17, 1984	IS
U.S. dollar	116.19
British sterling	165.69
German mark	41.742
French franc	13.643
Dutch guilder	37.104
Swiss franc	52.373
Swedish krona	14.288
Norwegian krone	14.871
Danish krone	11.516
Finnish mark	19.715
Canadian dollar	93.322
Australian dollar	105.09
South African rand	93.306
Belgian franc (100)	20.434
Austrian schilling (10)	59.205
Italian lire (100)	68.721
Japanese yen (100)	49.762
Irish pound	128.91
Spanish peseta (100)	73.154
Jordanian dinar	307.90
Lebanese lira	200.30
Egyptian pound	102.54

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CURRENCY BASKET		PURCHASE	SALE
DOLLAR PAZ*, 1 UNIT		358.7833	359.3593
EURO PAZ*, 1 UNIT		415.4129	419.5883
S.D.R.		120.1251	121.3324

FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES FOR 17.1.84			
COUNTRY	CURRENCY	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES
		PURCHASE, SALE	PURCHASE, SALE
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	116.19	116.19
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	165.69	165.69
FRANCE	FRANC	13.643	13.643
GERMANY	MARK	41.742	41.742
HOLLAND	GULDEN	37.104	37.104
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	52.373	52.373
SWEDEN	KRONA	14.288	14.288
NORWAY	KRONE	14.871	14.871
DENMARK	KRONE	11.516	11.516
FINLAND	MARK	19.715	19.715
CANADA	DOLLAR	93.322	93.322
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	105.09	105.09
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	93.306	93.306
BELGIUM	FRANC	20.434	20.434
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	59.205	59.205
ITALY	LIRE	68.721	68.721
JAPAN	YEN	49.762	49.762

FURTHER DETAILS AT OUR INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
4 AHUZAT BAYIT ST., TEL AVIV
TEL. 629414, AND AT ALL OUR BRANCHES.

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Commercial Banks

Bank	Change	%
OHH	14	-1.1
Maritime 0.1	254	-10.0
Maritime 0.5	108	n.c.
N. American 1	3312	n.c.
N. American 5	2083	n.c.
N. Am. op 1	1120	n.c.
Danot 5	64	-5.1
Danot 2	160	-6
First Int'l 5	199	n.c.
FIBI	189	n.c.

Commercial Banks

Bank	Change	%
IDB p	3587	n.c.
IDB r	3587	n.c.
IDB B r	3587	n.c.
IDB A r	3587	n.c.
IDB op 11	1980	-1.0
Unit 0.1	2412	-20
Unit 0.5	4302	n.c.
Discount B r	3587	-1.0
Discount op 2	510	-1.5
Discount B r	1371	-2.9
Mizrahi op 11	1370	-2.9
Mizrahi op 12	2040	-2.9
Mizrahi op 13	810	-3.6
Mizrahi op 14	1140	-3.6
Mizrahi op 15	908	-1.7
Hapoalim p	2180	n.c.
Hapoalim B r	2180	n.c.
Hapoalim op 8	8130	-5

Real Estate, Building

Bank	Change	%
Uren	117	n.c.
Azraim Prop.	114	266
Azraim opD	133	-
Azraim opE	64	-150
Edon	29	103
Edon op	112	-14
Ammonim	52	100
Ammonim op	112	-14
Africa Isr. 0.1	112	-14
Africa Isr. 1.0	112	-14
Azraim	50	24
Azraim op	350	73
Azraim op 1	123	25
Ban Yakar 1	143	11
Ban Yakar 5	105	6
Ban Yakar 10	110	255
Ban Yakar 20	53	119
Ban Yakar 50	90	117
Ban Yakar 100	118	90
Ban Yakar 200	63	74
Ban Yakar 500	39	209

Financial Institutions

Bank	Change	%
Shilon r	105	150
Shilon op B	701	-
Shilon op C	985	-
Shilon op D	860	-
Shilon op E	193	40
Shilon op F	3685	8
Shilon op G	3685	12
Shilon op H	1650	7
Shilon op I	709	7
Shilon op J	690	13
Shilon op K	311	10
Shilon op L	173	201
Shilon op M	271	21
Shilon op N	909	27
Shilon op O	71	93
Shilon op P	174	173

Trade & Services

Bank	Change	%
Meir Ezer	214	380
Meir Ezer op	143	16
Teta 1	110	19
Teta 5	80	7
Teta op	27	25
Clal Trade	220	6
Crystal 1	111	100
Rapac 0.1	825	-25
Rapac 0.5	167	36
Supersol 2	1070	1
Supersol B 10	380	18
Supersol op C	140	2

Services

</

Ari Roth
Editor and
Managing Director

THE JERUSALEM
POST

Erwin Frenkel
Editor

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Shvat 14, 5744 • Rabia-Thani 14, 1404

Immaculate misconception

THE LATEST foreign currency restrictions — preceded by those of November — are not among the greatest hardships recently imposed by the government.

People below the poverty line will certainly not feel the pinch, and neither will most of those who can afford to travel abroad. Businessmen going abroad regularly are, in many instances, permitted by law to keep unrestricted foreign bank accounts; and of those who take a cheap vacation in Rhodes, Naples or Majorca instead of an expensive one in Eilat or Tiberias, the overwhelming majority has never been able to afford the full sum of \$3,000 one could legally acquire until now.

Similarly, no great disaster has befallen Israeli savers by no longer being able to buy more than \$2,000 a year per person to keep, interest-free, in a private safe or under the mattress. And there is not much cause to bemoan the fate of those who can no longer legally buy foreign securities.

Just as these restrictions will make few people suffer any hardship, so will they contribute next to nothing to alleviating, let alone solving, any of the economy's problems. The amount of foreign currency that will be denied to individual savers and travellers will be paltry. The country's foreign currency reserves are not going to be boosted perceptively, and it is doubtful whether our credit standing with the international banking community will be significantly improved as a result of these measures.

Restrictive measures so immaterial in financial magnitude, so irrelevant to the economy's real problems, and so unenforceable in practice are bound to be regarded as nothing but the result of panic. In panic, action is taken for its own sake, not in any rational expectation of matching purpose and results.

On purely "technical" grounds the Treasury cannot be faulted for the latest currency restrictions as such. Wealthier countries, such as Sweden or France, have done the same. The point, is rather that the whole exercise is pointless. Restrictions that cannot be enforced are worse than none: they penalize the honest, and make a mockery of the law. Six years ago, the first Likud government, in the euphoric period when foreign policy was the domain of Herut and economic policy that of the Liberals, the currency control administration was dismantled.

That control had never been watertight, and it turned more and more leaky as Israel's foreign trade became a larger part of its total economic activities. By now, however, nothing is left of even the control mechanisms that once existed, and to rebuild them — if anyone were seriously to attempt to do so — would be a lengthy, if not impossible task.

Things would not have been half so bad if Mr. Cohen-Orad, as a new finance minister, with the professional qualifications and practical experience of a planner, had taken two-three weeks more to do nothing but think, and come up with a comprehensive economic programme. Instead, he rushed into action. As a result, he displays all the signs of panic and induces it among the public at home and, worse still, probably also among our leaders abroad.

Tami discovers poverty

IN ORDER to get a true understanding of the problems posed by poverty in Israel, it is necessary to distinguish between the National Insurance Institute's annual report for 1982 and the Institute's public relations campaign that accompanied it on Monday. The report reveals the causes that have pushed a growing number of working families below the poverty line, while the campaign reveals Tami's hunger for sensationalist headlines to promote its coalition demands.

The "sudden" discovery of 500,000 poor people in Israel was a concoction of the NII spokesman's office to create the misleading impression of an important new development. It was useful for dramatizing Tami's demands to compensate low-paid wage-earners and to raise NII benefits for the poor, but it was an irresponsible exercise in statistical manipulation.

The figure of 500,000, which is not even mentioned in the report, includes about 200,000 working families whose income is below the poverty line, and 300,000 widows, aged and disabled who have only their NII benefits to live on.

In truth the figure of 500,000 people below the poverty line has been fairly constant for the past three years, and is familiar to welfare experts. What the report, prepared by the research division of the NII, has done is to lift the veil on a predatory tax policy that has been pushing a significant number of working families below the poverty line since 1977. This discovery was due to the more sophisticated analytical techniques adopted by the department.

The report shows that the failure to adjust income tax brackets fast enough to keep up with inflation, since 1977, has taken a steadily bigger tax bite out of the families that can least afford it. It also shows that what the government was giving low-income families through child allowances, it was taking back again through higher income tax payments.

The most recent set of figures provided is for 1982, when Yoram Aridor's "proper economics" was still riding high and subsidies for basic commodities were keeping low-income families afloat. It takes no great feat of the imagination to realize what situation these families are in now, after subsidies have been cut drastically since October.

The NII report has done a service in focusing attention on the plight of families who work for a living but do not have enough to live on. Action is required to rectify this unfair tax policy, which creates misery for families and a moral blot on society. But this is not a new policy — rather the policy of the government which Tami joined, supports and has kept in power.

SAUDI KIDNAP

(Continued from Page One)

Christian East Beirut yesterday for fear that Monday's artillery duels between the Lebanese army and opposition Druse militias would continue.

In the event all the traditional fronts around Beirut were unusually quiet, with the only fighting reported from the largely depopulated Kharoub region on the Mediterranean coast 25 kilometres south of the capital.

At the presidential palace in Baubda, western ambassadors met to hear Wadie Haddad, President Amin Jemayel's national security adviser, explain the obstacles to the government's stalled security plan.

The ambassadors were from the U.S., France, Italy and Britain, the four contributors to the Multinational Force stationed in Beirut to help Jemayel extend his authority.

The security plan, which would disengage the country's warring factions and allow the Lebanese Army to move into new areas, came close to final approval by all parties last week but hitches emerged at the last minute.

The Christians have accused Syria and its Druse allies of wrecking the plan while the opposition National Salvation Front blamed the army, the Lebanese Forces and the U.S. contingent to the Multinational Force.

HOW MUCH does the government spend on settlement in the West Bank? No one, it appears, really knows.

As the debate over budget cuts continues, and as the Likud begins to hear rumbles from within its own ranks about cuts in services and the mounting unemployment in development towns, the demand for reducing expenditure on settlements in Judea and Samaria becomes more strident, and it would seem more irrelevant.

The Knesset is scheduled today to debate a motion for an immediate settlement freeze from two mavericks in the coalition, MKs Yitzhak Berman and Dror Zeigerman, and from the Shinui faction.

Several weeks ago, when finance minister Yigal Cohen-Orad began to talk of budget cuts, he disclosed that the 1983-84 budget for settlement was \$22 billion. His statement covers a multitude of sins.

Which budget was the minister referring to? Does it include that of the Defence Ministry, or was he talking only of capital investment or the costs of maintaining through subsidies what has already been built and the 30,000 settlers already living in Judea and Samaria?

And what of the \$22 billion? It appears that this budget estimate was based on a projected inflation rate of 60 per cent a year, and on an exchange rate of 1955 to the dollar. Sunday's announcement of the record 190 per cent inflation rate for last year makes those shkel estimates ludicrously irrelevant. A Hebrew University economist calculates that, based on a 160 per cent inflation rate, the figure Cohen-Orad disclosed would translate into \$470 million.

While the finance ministry divulged that only about one-third of this "\$22 billion" would be invested in the West Bank, the debate on the cost of settlement all too often jumbles figures relevant for all settlement beyond the Green Line or for some combination of the three areas of activity — the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Gaza strip.

Two weeks ago Yitzhak Rabin as-

serted that the annual expenditure was some \$400 million. He, too, was unspecific but insisted that his figures were based on reliable confidential sources.

The next day the chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, Yuval Ne'eman said that only \$100 million had been set aside for investment in the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

Peace Now responded with the charge that the "direct and indirect costs of settlement were \$800 million a year under the current government."

Yisrael Harel, chairman of the Council of Jewish cities and Settlements in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district, says that the current budget for the West Bank is under \$50 million.

WHICH FIGURES will the Knesset members use in their debate today? As the public begins to debate the issue in terms of its economic rather than its political costs, we may well wonder which figures are closest to the truth. It is doubtful that anybody is going to give us an accurate picture. But if Israel is ever forced to withdraw from the territories, no doubt, the government will be able to present an accurate bill for compensation to the American tax payer, as was done after the withdrawal from Sinai. Total capital investment in civilian projects between 1967 and 1981 was put at \$2.2 billion, and that was totally abandoned.

The only thorough study of public expenditure in the West Bank has been undertaken by Dr. Meron Benvenisti's West Bank Data Base

creativity. And since music is an integral part of every national culture — a means of communicating without words — it is also an international language.

In this country, there is additional importance to the teaching of music. In Israel we are desperately trying to integrate a society made up of many dispersions, traditions and cultures, without losing the uniqueness of any of them. Through music education, one can nurture and develop different musical traditions and mould them into an independent Jewish-Israeli culture.

I shall never forget the words of a nursery school teacher who told me on a recent tour of schools throughout the country: "You know, this class is a heterogeneous one — but its music is homogeneous."

These visits to music classes in all grades — from nursery schools to

The arithmetic of settlement

By DAVID RICHARDSON

Project. His soon to be published study notes that the official sources do not show any separate accounting for civilian expenditure in the territories.

The formula he used for calculating public capital expenditure was to use official data on actual uses and multiply it by the official figures on the cost per unit. The result indicates that the total public capital investment in civilian projects in the West Bank since 1967 has been \$1.5 billion (\$750 million under Labour governments between 1967 and 1973, and \$805 million under the Likud since 1977).

No data are available on the heavy military capital investment, and this often serves the settlement more directly than it does the immediate needs of the army. For example, the wide approach roads built to serve the settlements of Bracha and Ma'aleh Levsana in Samaria were financed by the Defence Ministry although the army has no installations in the area.

As for capital investment, according to Benvenisti's calculations, some \$695 million has been spent on housing. (12,500 housing units have been built in all the various kinds of settlement. This does not include the cost of the land and the infrastructure beyond the borders of the settlement.) Capital investment in other sectors is as follows: industry and production, \$328m.; agriculture, \$55m.; electricity, \$15m. (120 km. of high tension line by the Israel Electric Corporation alone); communications \$15m.; roads, \$75m.; water, \$122m.; other and unknown (additional infrastruc-

ture, land acquisition, community services etc.), \$250m.

The grand total for all this is \$1,555m.

Anticipated capital investment by 1986, based on the already announced plans of the World Zionist Organization Settlement Department and of various government ministries, would require \$625m. Since it was anticipated (before the crash of the bank shares and the current squeeze) that 40 per cent of this expenditure would come from private investors and developers, the annual public expenditure on capital investment would be \$375 million. This is almost triple the current rate of investment, and Benvenisti dismisses the figure as unfeasible. He estimates that the government is only able to invest some \$200m. per annum.

Not all of this investment is made in addition to investment in Israel proper. Some of it actually replaces capital investment that would have to be made in any case, he points out. The bulk of the planned expenditure in the West Bank (82.5 per cent) would be made in the metropolitan areas of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Prof. Yoram Ben Porath of the Hebrew University's Falk Institute notes that much of the current building in the West Bank does not really provide homeless young couples with new housing but better housing for people who already have homes. He stresses, too, that the construction industry has traditionally been the major tool for budgetary cuts.

Benvenisti estimates that the regular budget to subsidize and provide the high standard of ser-

vices available in the territories amounts to between \$70m. to \$100m. a year. As examples, he cites the very low teacher to pupil ratio in the schools and kindergartens, and the cost per ton of collecting garbage for the Match Binyamin local council, which services 22 widely dispersed settlements. "The system is built on wastage," he says.

THIS WRITER, for one, is unable to digest statistics containing too many zeroes or using the words "million" and "billion" frequently. Nor can one translate the meaning of costs in moving quickly from shekels to dollars.

It is easier to cope with smaller figures and then build on them. For those who prefer yardstick economics, let us consider that it costs \$300,000 per kilometre to build a road. Between three and four new by-passes are now to be built to avoid problematic towns and refugee camps such as Dahariya, Dehaishe, Balata, Tukarem-Kalkiya, etc. They involve at least 30 kilometres of new road.

The cost per housing unit in the West Bank is estimated to be \$64,000. On this basis, the cost of providing housing for a new settlement would only be in the range of half a million dollars. Today the Knesset is to discuss a motion for a freeze on new settlements. The debate might well be misdirected if it is not pointed out that the government is committed to finance infrastructure for already existing settlements. Future investment for infrastructure is directed at metropolitan areas, which are originally sanctioned for development by none other than the Labour party.

Trying to attack the government's settlement policy on economic grounds makes political sense. But in terms of changing the country's economic priorities, it will take more than a freeze on new settlement to stem the flow of resources to the West Bank.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff who covers the territories.

A plea for music

By EDNA SOLODAR

12th grade — have been a very exciting experience. I was astonished to see what dedicated teachers have achieved in integrated classes of children from both prosperous suburbs and slum areas, on mall

budgets which are slowly being eroded.

I DO NOT WANT to make light of the problem of scales of priority in education — especially today, when there isn't enough money for everything. Yet I fear that music education is in danger of being cut out altogether; if this happens, it will be society's loss.

Just what is in danger of vanishing? In 1976, it was decided that in state-supervised nursery schools, qualified teachers would give at least two hours a week of music or rhythmic for which parents would not be asked to pay. This decision is, unfortunately, being only partially implemented.

In primary school, up to sixth grade, children have one hour of music a week (during the Mandate, they got two). In higher classes,

there are provisions for a weekly music class, but the principal can decide which classes to drop from the curriculum for budgetary reasons — and music is frequently one of the victims.

In high school, music education is not compulsory. Certain schools have choirs and some even have orchestras, but their existence depends on the inclinations and initiative of principals and teaching staff. These minimal provisions are now all in danger, and many musicians and music teachers, only too aware of their lack of clout, are extremely concerned.

THIS CONCERN was strongly expressed during a panel discussion held at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem in mid-December, in which I participated. The director of the academy, Michal Smolra-Cohn, proposed that her institution should undertake to lead the struggle to preserve Israel's achievements in music education, to ensure that the subject is not allowed to be erased from the national agenda by default.

I know that it is not only music education which is in danger, but only music teachers who are likely to lose their jobs. But while the spotlight is being trained elsewhere, is it too much to ask that a small group be allowed to illuminate this small corner of our lives?

The writer is the Labour Alignment spokesperson, a member of Kibbutz Geshar and an accomplished pianist.

READERS' LETTERS

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — I was saddened, although not surprised, to see Susan Bellos pose the question as to whether "our children are in danger of being brainwashed by waves of religious nationalism" in her article on education (January 8).

The word "danger" is a strange one to find describing the influence of one's own religion. Its use might more reasonably have been expected in a question concerning brainwashing by, say, Moonies or occult groups, unless in Susan Bellos' view, Judaism is to be included in this category.

There appears to be an irrational fear pervading the article that, somehow, children within the state system might learn that they are not merely Israeli, but also Jewish.

Does it not occur to Susan Bellos that one of the major problems today in Israeli society is that, due to the educational policies of previous governments, many Israelis grew up with only a cursory knowledge of their Jewish background, which was indeed their personal history. This in turn, denuded of its religious significance, became simply a meaningless confusion.

From where should our nationalism stem, if not from its religious and historical sources? Zionism did not start with Herzl and Ben Gurion (without in any way denying their enormous part in its recent political past) and the socialist cadres of the kibbutz movement were not its only exponents. If our nationalism is to be felt, then it is suggested that the only legitimate source for it is one stemming from the 20th century secular root. If this is the case, then the logical implication is particularly worrying — that our entire claim to a nation in Israel is founded solely on the basis that Herzl et al thought it a good idea. This does not strike me as a particularly convincing argument, and, if this were the only reason, then perhaps we should quietly fold our tents and go away.

This does not of course mean that the teaching of general world or local history should be replaced by a purely Jewish aspect. Clearly the former is of vital importance in the educational process. But in order to achieve a thorough educational background and a semblance of self-knowledge, our own history and its religious centrality should not,

and cannot rationally, be viewed as divisive.

JONATHAN KALMAN
Jerusalem.

Susan Bellos comments:

Jonathan Kalman seems to have missed one of the main points of the article, "Schools and Skullcaps," namely that previous Labour governments and Labour ministers of education also tried very hard to instill Jewish consciousness into Israeli schoolchildren. Their resounding failure was not due to any lack of good intentions, but rather because religious sympathies, let alone practice, cannot be taught at school unless they are strongly reinforced by religious teachers and a religious example at home. Much the same situation prevails in these two key areas today, as it did seven years ago and the article suggested that today's ministry of education may have failed here simply because it was adopting an ideological position rather than a realistic goal.

Jonathan Kalman is entitled to his own brand of religious nationalism. But he should be aware that his are the views of a minority. There are two major tests of religious commitment in Israel: who people vote for and where they send their children to school. At present, the National Religious Party only garnered six out of 120 seats in the last elections (and all indications suggest that this figure is unlikely to be maintained) and only 19 per cent of the population registered their children for first grade in the state religious schools last year. The majority of the Israeli population has not yet voted for religious nationalism and until it does so, many parents will resent any infiltration of this into their children's school curriculum.

Sir, — Susan Bellos (January 6) regards Judaism as a poison and is afraid that it might be reshaping the children in our public schools.

If she were to reflect upon and take a good look at the state of Israeli society today, she would perhaps realize that it is the secularism of our schools, with its dash of anti-religion, that is the poison that has contaminated two generations of Israelis.

RABBI MENDEL LEWITTE
Jerusalem.

REDUCING THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — The following short sentence buried on page 6 of your January 5 edition shocked me more than all the bad economic and financial news headlined on the first page during the last couple of months: "Tourism brought in about \$1 billion during 1983, half of the foreign currency taken out of the country by Israeli travellers." In other words, \$22 billion has been spent abroad by our globe-trotting lavish Israelis!

Here we are talking about cutting defence, education, health and social services just to save a "mere" \$600 million, crying about such trivia as \$9 million lost due to stevedores' strike and other similar losses, which don't even approach the magnitude of the above mentioned astronomical amount of \$2 billion.

I am not suggesting interference with the Wanderlust of the Israelis, but where is it written that the amount they are allowed to take abroad has to be \$3,000? How about

reducing it to \$1,500 and thus saving a cool \$1 billion? The French have recently reduced the traveller's allowance much more drastically without provoking a revolution. Why can't we? Of all the difficult steps towards reducing our deficit in the balance of payments, this seems to me the least painful and the easiest to execute.

DR. JACOB ROSIN
Netanya.

LABOUR LEADERSHIP

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, — As a recent spectator at Yitzhak Navon's first public address at a Labour Party forum since leaving the presidency, I came away with the feeling that Navon has overplayed his hand.

His procrastination at entering the political arena along with his hesitancy to seriously discuss any of the major issues facing our country today, should surely make his supporters both in and outside the Labour Party think twice about him. To qualify for leadership, one should be more than just erudite.

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